INITIAL STUDY

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has completed the following Initial Study for this project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (§ 21000 et seq., California Public Resources Code) and implementing Guidelines (§15000 et seq., Title 14, California Code of Regulations).

I. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name: Almaden Quicksilver County Park

Site Address: Almaden Quicksilver County Park, Almaden Road

City: San Jose State: CA Zip Code: 95101 County: Santa Clara

Company Contact Person: Edgardo Gillera, DTSC

Address: 700 Heinz Avenue, Suite 200

City: Berkeley State: CA Zip Code: 94710 Phone Number: (510) 540-3826

Project Description:

The project consists of excavation and consolidation of remaining calcine material from the Hacienda Furnace Yard and Jacques Gulch areas of Almaden Quicksilver County Park. The total mass of material to be removed and consolidated is estimated to be approximately 25,000 to 30,000 cubic yards. This material will be consolidated and capped in the Mine Hill area of the Park pursuant to the existing Remedial Action Plan (RAP) approved by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) in December 1994.

Project Activities:

To address the last significant calcine deposits at Almaden Quicksilver County Park, additional excavation and consolidation of calcines from the Hacienda Furnace Yard area and Jacques Gulch area is proposed. Removal of calcine material from this portion of the Hacienda Furnace Yard area was addressed in the original RAP. However, prior to implementation of the RAP, the area was identified as an established riparian habitat and was also identified as habitat for the California Red-Legged Frog, a federally-listed threatened species. Revision to the Remedial Design was required to minimize impact to the frog and the riparian habitat, and as a result, some calcine material was left in place.

The Hacienda Project will address calcines found in three locations within the Hacienda Furnace Yard area: Upper Hacienda, Lower Hacienda and Deep Gulch Creek. The total mass of materials to be removed from these areas is estimated to be10,000 to 15,000 cubic yards. The Jacques Project will address calcine material not addressed in the original RAP. Calcines to be excavated is found in two locations within the Jacques Gulch area: Location A, which extends from the culvert beneath Alamitos Road at the confluence with Almaden Reservoir in the Park, for a distance of approximately 600-feet upstream; and Location B, which is located in the Park and upstream from Location A, towards the Mine Hill area. Location B extends approximately 1000-feet. The total mass to be removed from these locations is estimated to be approximately 15,000 cubic yards.

The materials removed as part of the Hacienda and Jacques Projects will be consolidated in the "San Francisco Open Cut" portion of the Mine Hill area of the Park, where similar materials were placed and capped as part of the earlier remediation activities under the RAP approved by DTSC on December 1994. The materials will be placed on top of the existing consolidation area at San Francisco Open Cut and then capped. Some concrete drainage ditches will be removed before placement of calcines and new ditches will be constructed at certain locations at in this area after calcines is deposited and the cap is constructed. Other calcine materials will be placed in an existing depression on to of San Francisco Open Cut and then capped.

Transportation of the removed materials from Upper Hacienda and Deep Gulch to the consolidation area will occur completely within the Park boundaries, on maintenance roads which will be closed to public vehicular traffic.

Transportation of materials from Lower Hacienda to the Park entrance will be on Almaden Road for about ½ mile. This portion of Almaden Road is owned by the County and runs along the current easterly boundary of the southern portion of the Park. Transportation of removed materials from the Jacques Gulch area to the consolidation area will occur along a limited portion of Hicks Road. Hicks Road is owned by the County and forms the current westerly boundary of the southern portion of the Park.

Background:

Almaden Quicksilver County Park is a 3,750 acre, undeveloped parcel on the northeast ridge of the Santa Cruz mountains. Mercury mining and ore processing were conducted by a number of different entities at the site from 1845 to 1975. Mercury at the site occurred primarily as mineral cinnabar (mercury sulfide). Mercury was extracted by heating the ore in retorts and furnaces to volatilize the mercury that was then condensed t liquid mercury. Processed ore (calcines) from the furnaces and retorts was dumped near the processing areas. All mining related operations ceased in 1975 when Santa Clara County purchased the property for use as a park.

The final remedial action focused on five separate areas within the park where calcines remain from the mercury ore processing that was previously conducted. These areas are the Mine Hill Area, the Hacienda Furnace Yard, the Enriquita Mine Retort, the San Mateo Mine Retort and Senator Mine. Average total mercury concentrations for the five areas ranged from 39 to 420 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg). The selected site remedy consisted of on-site containment measures that prevent human exposure and further releases to surface waters. The primary components of the remedy was construction of vegetative soil covers and a 1500-foot long rock and wire mesh barrier constructed in the Hacienda Furnace Yard along the bank of Alamitos Creek. The Final Remedial Action Plan for the site included provisions for long-term inspection and maintenance of soil covers and the barrier.

DTSC certified completion of the final remedial action at the Almaden Quicksilver County Park on December 29, 1999. Five-Year Reviews to assure that the implemented remedy for the site remained protective of human health, safety and the environment was completed for the Hacienda Furnace Yard on February 2002. The Five-Year Review for the Mine Hill areas, including Mine Hill, the Enriquita Mine Retort, the San Mateo Mine and Senator Mine, was completed in October 2003. Both reported that the selected remedy remained protective of human health, safety and the environment.

II. DISCRETIONARY APPROVAL ACTION BEING CONSIDERED BY DTSC

☐ Initial Permit Issuance	☐ Closure Plan	☐ Removal Action Workplan
☐ Permit Renewal	☐ Regulations	☐ Interim Removal
☐ Permit Modification	☐ Remedial Action Plan	☒ Other (Specify) Explanation of Significant Diffences

Program/ Region Approving Project: DTSC, Berkeley Regional Office, Site Mitigation and Brownfields Reuse Program

DTSC Contact Person: Edgardo Gillera

Address: 700 Heinz Avenue, Suite 200

City: Berkeley State: CA Zip Code: 94710 Phone Number: (510) 540-3826

III. ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The boxes checked below identify environmental resources in the following ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING/IMPACT ANALYSIS section found to be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact."

☒ None Identified	☐ Aesthetics	☐ Agricultural Resources

☐ Air Quality	☒ Biological Resources	☐ Cultural Resources
☒ Geology And Soils	☐ Hazards and Hazardous Materials	☒ Hydrology and Water Quality
☐ Land Use and Planning	☒ Mineral Resources	☒ Noise
☐ Population and Housing	☐ Public Services	☐ Recreation
☐ Transportation and Traffic	☒ Utilities and Service Systems	

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

The following pages provide a brief description of the physical environmental resources that exist within the area affected by the proposed project and an analysis of whether or not those resources will be potentially impacted by the proposed project. Preparation of this section follows guidance provided in DTSC's California Environmental Quality Act Initial Study Workbook [Workbook]. A list of references used to support the following discussion and analysis are contained in Attachment A and are referenced within each section below.

Mitigation measures which are made a part of the project (e.g.: permit condition) or which are required under a separate Mitigation Measure Monitoring or Reporting Plan which either avoid or reduce impacts to a level of insignificance are identified in the analysis within each section.

1. Aesthetics

Project activities likely to create an impact: NONE. All project activities will take place within Park boundaries, removed from any scenic vista or resource. Consequently, no further analysis of impacts to this resource category is deemed necessary.

Description of Environmental Setting:

Analysis of Potential Impacts. Describe to what extent project activities would:

a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista.

b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings and historic buildings within a state scenic highway.

c. Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings.

d. Create a new source of substantial light of glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

Specific References:

a) Initial Environmental Study for Almaden Quicksilver County Park, prepared by DTSC, April 11, 1994.

b) Final Remedial Action Plan, Almaden Quicksilver County Park, prepared by Camp Dresser & McKee, December 6, 1994.

Findings of Significance:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

2. Agricultural Resources

Project activities likely to create an impact: NONE. All project activities will take place within Park boundaries, removed from any agricultural resource. Consequently, no further analysis of impacts to this resource category is deemed necessary.

Description of Environmental Setting:

Analysis of Potential Impacts. Describe to what extent project activities would:

a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland) as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use.

b. Conflict with existing zoning or agriculture use, or Williamson Act contract.

c. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural uses.

Specific References:

a) Initial Environmental Study for Almaden Quicksilver County Park, prepared by DTSC, April 11, 1994.

b) Final Remedial Action Plan, Almaden Quicksilver County Park, prepared by Camp Dresser & McKee, December 6, 1994.

Findings of Significance:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

3. Air Quality

Project activities likely to create an impact:

- Excavation and transportation of approximately 25,000 to 30,000 cubic yards of calcine material
- Consolidation and capping of calcine material in the Mine Hill area

Description of Environmental Setting:

Some dust generation from the grading and excavation activities performed as part of the proposed project is anticipated; however, dust suppression measures will be implemented along with air quality monitoring to ensure that dust generation is minimalized. The Hacienda Project will be the only area where work would be conducted in the vicinity of residential areas. A residential area is located approximately 300 to 400 feet away from where proposed project activities will be conducted. Jacques Gulch is separated from residential areas by forested, hilly terrain. Workers implementing the project will be required to use respiratory protection unless air monitoring indicates it is not necessary.

Analysis of Potential Impacts. Describe to what extent project activities would:

a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan.

The project will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of any applicable air quality plan.

b. Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation.

Some dust generation from the grading and excavation activities performed as part of the proposed project is anticipated; however, dust suppression measures will be implemented along with air quality monitoring to ensure that dust generation is minimalized.

c. Result in cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors).

The project will not result in a cumulative increase of any criteria pollutant.

d. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.

The Hacienda Project will be conducted in the vicinity of residential areas. A residential area is located approximately 300 to 400 feet away from where proposed project activities will be conducted. Dust suppression measures will be implemented along with air quality monitoring to ensure that dust generation is minimalized.

e. Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people.

The project will not create any objectionable odors.

f. Result in human exposure to Naturally Occurring Asbestos (see also Geology and Soils, f.).

The project site is not located in an area deemed to have deposits of naturally occurring asbestos.

Specific References:

a) Initial Environmental Study for Almaden Quicksilver County Park, prepared by DTSC, April 11, 1994.

b) Final Remedial Action Plan, Almaden Quicksilver County Park, prepared by Camp Dresser & McKee, December 6, 1994.

Findings of Significance:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

4. Biological Resources

Project activities likely to create an impact:

- Excavation and transportation of approximately 10,000 to 15,000 cubic yards of calcine material from the Hacienda Furnace Yard area

Description of Environmental Setting:

The vegetation reflects the climatic differences due to altitude, although it is also influenced by other features such as northerly or southerly exposure, type of soil, and drainage. Foothill woodland species are the dominant vegetation in Almaden Quicksilver County Park and surrounding areas. The predominant species include blue oak (Quercus douglasii), coast live oak (Q. agrifolia), California white oak (Q. lobata), canyon maple (Acer macrophyllum), common buckbrush (Ceanothus cunneatus), California laurel (Umbellularia californica), and poison-oak (Rhus diversiloba). The south-facing slopes are more xeric and have plants commonly found in the chaparral community, such as chamise (Adenostoma fasciculatum), toyon (Heteromeles arbutifolia), redberry (Rhamnus crocea) and buckbrush (Ceanothus spp.). Certain plant species such as fragrant fitillaria (Fritillaria liliacea) and the jewel flower (Streptanthus albidus), which are listed on the California Native Plant Society Watchlist, are associated with serpentine soils in the area. Riparian corridors along stream and river banks are characterized as Valley Foothill Riparian habitat, with plant species that include willows (Salix spp.), California sycamore (Platanus racemosa), Fremont cottonwood (Populus fremontii), and white alder (Alms rhombifolia).

The diversity of habitats within the area allows for a variety of wildlife. The most common bird species are the red-winged blackbird (Agelaius phoeniceus), scrub jay (Aphelocoma coerulescens), robin (Turdus migratorius), western meadowlark

(Sturnella neglecta), and yellow-billed magpie (Pica nuttalli). Piscivorous bird species include the black-crowned night heron (Nycticorax nycticorax), snowy egret (Egretta thula), great egret (Casmerodius albus), great blue heron (Ardea herodias), green-backed heron (Butorides striatus), common merganser (Mergus merganser), and belted kingfisher (Ceryle alcyon). Tidal areas of the drainage are used by numerous shorebirds and the California clapper rail (Rallus longirostris obsoletus), a federally listed "endangered" species. Mammalian species present in the area include the raccoon (Procyon lotor), striped skunk (Mephitis mephitis), coyote (Canis latrans), California ground squirrel (Spermophilus beecheyi), cottontail rabbit (Sylvilagus audoboni), deer mouse (Peromyscus maniculatus) and black-tailed deer (Odocoileus hemionus columbianus). Bat species that forage in riparian areas include the little brown myotis (Myotis lucifugus), Yuma myotis (M. yumanensis), western pipistrelle (Pipistrellus hesperus) and the silver-haired bat (Lasionycteris noctivagans). Common amphibians and reptiles found within the area are the Pacific treefrog (Hyla regilla), western toad (Bufo boreas), non-native bullfrog (Rana catesbeiana), western rattlesnake (Crotalus viridis), gopher snake (Pituophis catenifer), southern alligator lizard (Gerrhonotus multicarinatus), and western pond turtle (Clemmys marmorata). Several native and non-native fish species occur in the perennial streams, reservoirs, and mainstem of the Guadalupe River drainage. Native species still known to be present include rainbow trout (Oncorhynchus mykiss), Sacramento sucker (Catostomus occidentalis), California roach (Lavinia symmetricus), prickly sculpin (Cottus asper), riffle sculpin (C. gulosus) and lamprey (Lampetra spp.). Small populations of the anadromous fall run Chinook salmon (0. tshawytscha) and steelhead trout (0. mykiss) also spawn in the river. The large number of non- native fish species introduced into the drainage included redear sunfish (Lepomis microlophus), bluegill sunfish (Lepomis macrochirus), largemouth bass (Micropterus salmoides), common carp (Cyprinus carpio), black crappie (Pomoxis nigromaculatus), brown bullhead (Icalurus nebulosus), and others. Native fish species now represent only about 30% of the total number of species in the drainage.

Analysis of Potential Impacts. Describe to what extent project activities would:

a. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Guadalupe River drainage is home to the red-legged from (Rana aurora), a species formally listed as "threatened" under the Federal Engangered Species Act, and the foothill yellow-legged frog (Rana boylei), a California Species of Special Concern. It is also home to the Federally threatened steelhead trout (Onchorynchus mykiss) and California tiger salamander (Ambystoma calforniense). California clapper rail and salt marsh harvest mouse (Reithrodontomys raviventris) are found in the tidal marshes surrounding the Guadalupe River estuary. In addition, wintering bald eagles (Haliaeetus leucocephalus) frequent the reservoirs built on the tributary creeks.

The following procedures will be implemented to minimize impact:

1. Red-legged Frog. Red-legged frogs have been documented to occur irregularly in the project area. Prior to construction the area to be dewatered will be surveyed by a qualified red-legged frog biologist to determine whether red-legged frogs are present; the results of the survey will be used to determine the appropriate level of biological monitoring during the construction period. Dewatering will be accomplished slowly to encourage mobile aquatic organisms to move downstream. As dewatering progresses, a crew led by a qualified red-legged frog biologist will capture any adult frogs and collect any egg masses found in the area for re-location below the point where water is returned to the stream. Biological monitors assigned during the construction period ensure to the extent possible that construction activities do not injure any red-legged frogs that enter the area. All frog mortalities will be fully documented.

2. Steelhead. Rainbow trout, some of which might be anadromous steelhead, have been documented to occur in the project area. Therefore, the species will be assumed to be present and a pre-construction survey will not be conducted. Dewatering will be accomplished slowly to encourage mobile aquatic organisms to move downstream. As dewatering progresses, a crew led by a qualified steelhead biologist will capture all fish remaining in the reach by electrofishing and relocate them below the point where water is returned to the stream. If any pools remain after dewatering is completed, those pools will be re-surveyed to ensure that as many fish as possible are captured and relocated; all mortalities will be fully documented.

b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

A section of the Hacienda Furnace Yard has been designated as established riparian habitat. Provisions in the project design will be included to minimize impact to the habitat and to meet the requirements of the California Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

c. Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.

The project is not located in the vicinity wetland areas.

d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.

The project will not interfere with the movement of native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.

e. Conflict with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance.

The project does not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources.

f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

A section of the Hacienda Furnace Yard has been designated as established riparian habitat. Provisions in the project design will be included to minimize impact to the habitat and to meet the requirements of the California Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Specific References:

a) Initial Environmental Study for Almaden Quicksilver County Park, prepared by DTSC, April 11, 1994.

b) Final Remedial Action Plan, Almaden Quicksilver County Park, prepared by Camp Dresser & McKee, December 6, 1994.

c) Almaden Quicksilver Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment (Public Review Draft), prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, and California Department of Fish and Game – Office of Spill Prevention and Response, January 14, 2005.

Findings of Significance:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

5. Cultural Resources

Project activities likely to create an impact: NONE. All project activities will take place within Park boundaries. No significant effects on cultural resources from the proposed projects have been identified. Consequently, no further analysis of impacts to this resource category is deemed necessary.

Description of Environmental Setting:

Analysis of Potential Impacts. Describe to what extent project activities would:

a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in 15064.5.

b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archeological resource pursuant to 15064.5.

c. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.

d. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.

Specific References:

a) Initial Environmental Study for Almaden Quicksilver County Park, prepared by DTSC, April 11, 1994.

b) Final Remedial Action Plan, Almaden Quicksilver County Park, prepared by Camp Dresser & McKee, December 6, 1994.

Findings of Significance:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

6. Geology and Soils

Project activities likely to create an impact:

- Excavation and transportation of approximately 25,000 to 30,000 cubic yards of calcine material
- Consolidation and capping of calcine material in the Mine Hill area

Description of Environmental Setting:

The Hacienda Project will address calcines found in three locations within the Hacienda Furnace Yard area: Upper Hacienda, Lower Hacienda and Deep Gulch Creek. The total mass of materials to be removed from these areas is estimated to be 10,000 to 15,000 cubic yards. The Jacques Project will address calcines found in two locations within the Jacques Gulch area: Location A, which extends from the culvert beneath Alamitos Road at the confluence with Almaden Reservoir in the Park, for a distance of approximately 600-feet upstream; and Location B, which is located in the Park and upstream from Location A, towards the Mine Hill area. Location B extends approximately 1000-feet. The total mass to be removed from these locations is estimated to be approximately 15,000 cubic yards.

The materials removed as part of the Hacienda and Jacques Projects will be consolidated in the "San Francisco Open Cut" portion of the Mine Hill area of the Park. The materials will be placed in an existing depression or on top of the existing consolidation area at San Francisco Open Cut and then capped.

Analysis of Potential Impacts. Describe to what extent project activities would:

a. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

- Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault. (Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42).

  The subject site is between active fault zones which have historic surface rupture, the San Andreas to the west, and the Hayward and Calaveras Faults to the east.

- Strong seismic ground shaking.

See the response above.

- Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction.

  The site is located in an area that has not been designated as a liquefaction zone.

- Landslides.

  The site is located in an area where previous landslide movements have occurred, or local topographic, geological, geotechnical and subsurface water conditions indicate a potential for permanent ground displacement.

b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil.

   Excavated areas will be immediately graded to existing and/or stable contour.

c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse.

   The site is located in an area that has not been designated as a liquefaction zone.

d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property.

   The project does not include construction of any structures.

e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of water.

   The project does not involve installation or use of septic tanks. However, the site is currently connected to the local municipal water supply and sewer system; therefore there is no need for site conditions to support a septic or alternative waste water system.

f. Be located in an area containing naturally occurring asbestos (see also Air Quality, f.).

   The project site is not located in an area deemed to have deposits of naturally occurring asbestos.

Specific References:

a) Initial Environmental Study for Almaden Quicksilver County Park, prepared by DTSC, April 11, 1994.

b) Final Remedial Action Plan, Almaden Quicksilver County Park, prepared by Camp Dresser & McKee, December 6, 1994.

c) California Geological Survey, Seismic Hazard Mapping Program, http://gmw.consrv.ca.gov/shmp.

Findings of Significance:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

7. Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Project activities likely to create an impact:

- Excavation and transportation of approximately 25,000 to 30,000 cubic yards of calcine material
- Consolidation and capping of calcine material in the Mine Hill area

Description of Environmental Setting:

The Project will address the last significant calcine deposits at Almaden Quicksilver County Park. Additional excavation and consolidation of calcines from the Hacienda Furnace Yard area and Jacques Gulch area will be conducted. The total mass to be removed from both project locations is estimated to be approximately 15,000 cubic yards. Average total mercury concentrations ranged from 39 to 420 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) according to remedial investigations conducted at the Park. U.S. EPA, Region 9 has developed Preliminary Remedial Goals (PRGs) for screening of soil contamination. Residential PRG for mercury and compounds is 23 mg/kg. Industrial PRG for mercury and compounds is 310 mg/kg. Mercury at the Park occurs primarily in the form of mineral cinnabar and is the form of mercury that a park visitor or employee would be likely to encounter.

The Final RAP established the following cleanup goals: 400 mg/kg and 298 mg/kg for the Hacienda Furnace Yard area and Mine Hill area, respectively. A cleanup goal for the Jacques Gulch area was not established.

Analysis of Potential Impacts. Describe to what extent project activities would:

a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment throughout the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials.

Workers implementing the project may be exposed to or come in contact with mercury-containing waste materials. All work will be conducted according to the approved RAP and an approved Site Safety and Health Plan (SSHP). Project activities implemented are subject to regulation under Title 8, Section 5192, of the California Code of Regulations.

Dust generated by work at the Hacienda Furnace Yard area may be carried to nearby residential properties. Water sprays will be used for dust control as necessary. Dust monitoring will be conducted to ensure no exceedance of standards. If the on-site treatment is chosen, appropriate measures will be taken to prevent generation of dust. Dust control measures during handling of contaminated soil will consist of spraying water onto the soil and work area. The dust-monitoring plan will be detailed in the SSHP. Dust Monitoring will be conducted to ensure no exceedance of State and Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) standards.

The SSHP will include information that addresses the health risks and hazards for each site task, employee training assignments to assure compliance with Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations, personal protective equipment, frequency and types of air monitoring, personnel monitoring, site control measures, decontamination procedures, an emergency response plan, and procedures for providing potable water and a sanitary facility to site personnel.

The backhoes and any other equipment used during site activities will be decontaminated by removing all soil from the equipment. This will likely be conducted by brushing and scraping the dirt from the equipment or by rinsing with a high-pressure water spray to remove potential contamination. Trucks exiting the Site will be inspected for compliance with site decontamination requirements.

With implementation of the above project controls, DTSC feels the project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment throughout the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials.

b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment.

With implementation of the above project controls and those recommended by the BAAQMD, DTSC does not anticipate the project would create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably upset or accident conditions throughout the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials.

c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school.

The project does not entail the management of acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste, nor are the existing four schools located within ¼ mile of the project. Castillero Middle School is the nearest school, located approximately 1-mile northeast of the Site.

d. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to public or the environment.

The project is included on the list of hazardous waste sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. Removal actions proposed in the project are intended to reduce impacts to less than significant levels.

e. Impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

Project implementation requires adherence to an approved emergency response plan and spill containment program. This requirement must be met prior to the project being approved and implemented.

Specific References:

a) Initial Environmental Study for Almaden Quicksilver County Park, prepared by DTSC, April 11, 1994.

b) Final Remedial Action Plan, Almaden Quicksilver County Park, prepared by Camp Dresser & McKee, December 6, 1994.

Findings of Significance:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

8. Hydrology and Water Quality

Project activities likely to create an impact:

- Excavation and transportation of approximately 25,000 to 30,000 cubic yards of calcine material
- Consolidation and capping of calcine material in the Mine Hill area

Description of Environmental Setting:

Grading and excavation activities would be conducted immediately adjacent to Alamitos Creek in the Hacienda Project area. Mercury-containing sediments could be introduced into Alamitos Creek, a perennial stream, as a result of these activities. Grading and excavation activities in Location A, in the immediate vicinity of Almaden Reservoir may also results in introduction of mercury-containing sediments into the reservoir. Measures will be implemented to minimize the sediments carried into Alamitos Creek and Almaden Reservoir. These measures can include: placement of hay bales and berms around excavated areas, stockpiles and non-vegetated slopes. Work will be performed during dry months, when the volume of flow in Alamitos Creek is low. Contact with California Department of Fish and Game and/or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may also be appropriate. Necessary permits will be obtained prior to implementation of the work.

Potential also exists in the Mine Hill area for migration of sediments during grading, excavation and consolidation. Drainage from this area typically flows to South Los Capitancillos Creek, which flows into Almaden Reservoir; however, flows from this area are intermittent. Similar preventive measures as discussed above will be implemented.

Guadalupe Reservoir is adjacent to the Almaden Quicksilver County Park, but not adjacent to the proposed work areas. No impact on the reservoir from the proposed project is likely to occur.

Diversion channels will be constructed in one area (Mine Hill Area) to divert runoff around waste material. These diversion channels would only affect drainage patterns around consolidation areas. Any increases in surface water runoff as a result of these channels will be addressed as part of the project; however, substantial increases are not anticipated.

Analysis of Potential Impacts. Describe to what extent project activities would:

a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements.

Mercury-containing sediments could be introduced into Alamitos Creek, a perennial stream, as a result of these activities. Grading and excavation activities in Location A, in the immediate vicinity of Almaden Reservoir may also results in introduction of mercury-containing sediments into the reservoir. Measures will be implemented to minimize the sediments carried into Alamitos Creek and Almaden Reservoir. These measures can include: placement of hay bales and berms around excavated areas, stockpiles and non-vegetated slopes. Work will be performed during dry months, when the volume of flow in Alamitos Creek is low. Contact with California Department of Fish and Game and/or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may also be appropriate. Necessary permits will be obtained prior to implementation of the work.

Potential also exists in the Mine Hill area for migration of sediments during grading, excavation and consolidation. Drainage from this area typically flows to South Los Capitancillos Creek, which flows into Almaden Reservoir; however, flows from this area are intermittent. Similar preventive measures as discussed above will be implemented.

b. Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficient in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted).

The project will not substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge.

c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off-site.

Diversion channels will be constructed in one area (Mine Hill Area) to divert runoff around waste material. These diversion channels would only affect drainage patterns around consolidation areas. Any increases in surface water runoff as a result of these channels will be addressed as part of the project; however, substantial increases are not anticipated.

d. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or off-site.

Diversion channels will be constructed in one area (Mine Hill Area) to divert runoff around waste material. These diversion channels would only affect drainage patterns around consolidation areas. Any increases in surface water runoff as a result of these channels will be addressed as part of the project; however, substantial increases are not anticipated.

e. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff.

The project is not expected to interfere with existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff.

f. Otherwise substantially degrade water quality.

Grading and excavation activities in the proposed project areas may temporarily introduce mercury-containing sediments into Alamitos Creek and Almaden Reservoir. Measures will be implemented to minimize the sediments carried into these surface water bodies.

g. Place within a 100-flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows.

The project does not involved activities associated with construction of new structures. In addition, the project is not located in a 100-flood hazard area.

h. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam.

See previous response under subcategory "g" above.

i. Inundation by sieche, tsunami or mudflow.

The Site is located approximately 30-miles inland of the Pacific Ocean and approximately 20-miles south of San Francisco Bay. Inundation by sieche or tsunami is unlikely.

Specific References:

a) Initial Environmental Study for Almaden Quicksilver County Park, prepared by DTSC, April 11, 1994.

b) Final Remedial Action Plan, Almaden Quicksilver County Park, prepared by Camp Dresser & McKee, December 6, 1994.

c) ESRI/FEMA U.S. Flood Hazard Area Map for Santa Clara County.

Findings of Significance:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

9. Land Use and Planning

Project activities likely to create an impact: NONE. Proposed activities do not require formal local land use or zoning approvals. Consequently, no further analysis of impacts to this resource category is deemed necessary.

Description of Environmental Setting:

Analysis of Potential Impacts. Describe to what extent project activities would:

a. Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect.

b. Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan.

Specific Reference:

a) Initial Environmental Study for Almaden Quicksilver County Park, prepared by DTSC, April 11, 1994.

b) Final Remedial Action Plan, Almaden Quicksilver County Park, prepared by Camp Dresser & McKee, December 6, 1994.

Findings of Significance:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

10. Mineral Resources

Project activities likely to create an impact: NONE. Mercury ore deposits were depleted by former mining operations that occurred at the Park. There are no known mineral resources that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state on-site. Consequently, no further analysis of impacts to this resource category is deemed necessary.

Description of Environmental Setting:

Analysis of Potential Impacts. Describe to what extent project activities would:

a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state.

b. Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan.

Specific References:

a) Initial Environmental Study for Almaden Quicksilver County Park, prepared by DTSC, April 11, 1994.

b) Final Remedial Action Plan, Almaden Quicksilver County Park, prepared by Camp Dresser & McKee, December 6, 1994.

Findings of Significance:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

11. Noise

Project activities likely to create an impact:

- Excavation and transportation of approximately 25,000 to 30,000 cubic yards of calcine material
- Consolidation and capping of calcine material in the Mine Hill area

Description of Environmental Setting:

The project areas are located entirely within the Park. The Hacienda Project will be the only area where work would be conducted in the vicinity of residential areas. A residential area is located approximately 300 to 400 feet away from where proposed project activities will be conducted. Jacques Gulch is separated from residential areas by forested, hilly terrain.

Analysis of Potential Impacts. Describe to what extent project activities would:

a. Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies.

In all instants that noise levels exceed the established standards, ear protection will be required.

b. Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundbourne vibration or groundbourne noise levels.

It is not anticipated that this excavation, offsite transport and backfilling activities will result in excessive groundbourne vibration or noise.

c. A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity above levels existing without the project.

Operation of construction equipment and trucks to excavate soil from the site may cause a minor increase in the existing noise levels. The noise generated from the project will be short-term (a few weeks), therefore no permanent increase is expected.

d. A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project.

The operation of the vehicles and equipment on site during the project will not substantially increase the ambient noise level.

Specific References:

a) Initial Environmental Study for Almaden Quicksilver County Park, prepared by DTSC, April 11, 1994.

b) Final Remedial Action Plan, Almaden Quicksilver County Park, prepared by Camp Dresser & McKee, December 6, 1994.

Findings of Significance:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

12. Population and Housing

Project activities likely to create an impact: NONE. Proposes activities will not entail construction of new housing or demolition of existing housing. Consequently, no further analysis of impacts to these resources is deemed necessary.

Description of Environmental Setting:

Analysis of Potential Impacts. Describe to what extent project activities would:

a. Induce substantial population growth in area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure).

b. Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

c. Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

Specific Reference:

a) Initial Environmental Study for Almaden Quicksilver County Park, prepared by DTSC, April 11, 1994.

b) Final Remedial Action Plan, Almaden Quicksilver County Park, prepared by Camp Dresser & McKee, December 6, 1994.

Findings of Significance:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

13. Public Services

Project activities likely to create an impact: NONE. No public services are provided or required at the remediation site. Due to the short duration of construction-related activity at the site, the project will not affect the community's access to existing services nor will it result in additional need for public services. Consequently, no further analysis of impacts to this resource category is deemed necessary.

Description of Environmental Setting:

Analysis of Potential Impacts. Describe to what extent project activities would:

a. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered government facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the following public services:

- Fire protection
- Police protection
- Schools
- Parks
- Other public facilities

Specific References:

a) Initial Environmental Study for Almaden Quicksilver County Park, prepared by DTSC, April 11, 1994.

b) Final Remedial Action Plan, Almaden Quicksilver County Park, prepared by Camp Dresser & McKee, December 6, 1994.

Findings of Significance:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

14. Recreation

Project activities likely to create an impact: NONE. Proposed activities do not include construction or expansion of recreational facilities at or near the project site. Certain portions of the Park may be restricted from public use during excavation and construction activities. These activities will occur over a short period of time (few weeks). Consequently, no further analysis of impacts to this resource category is deemed necessary.

Description of Environmental Setting:

Analysis of Potential Impacts. Describe to what extent project activities would:

a. Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated.

b. Include recreational facilities or require construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

Specific References:

a) Initial Environmental Study for Almaden Quicksilver County Park, prepared by DTSC, April 11, 1994.

b) Final Remedial Action Plan, Almaden Quicksilver County Park, prepared by Camp Dresser & McKee, December 6, 1994.

Findings of Significance:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

15. Transportation and Traffic

Project activities likely to create an impact:

- Excavation and transportation of approximately 25,000 to 30,000 cubic yards of calcine material

Description of Environmental Setting:

Trucks transporting equipment and materials will add temporary increase in traffic. Transportation of materials from Lower Hacienda to the Park entrance will be on Almaden Road for about ½ mile. This portion of Almaden Road is owned by the County and runs along the current easterly boundary of the southern portion of the Park. Transportation of removed materials from the Jacques Gulch area to the consolidation area will occur along a limited portion of Hicks Road. Hicks Road is owned by the County and forms the current westerly boundary of the southern portion of the Park. The increase in traffic will be intermittent and would only occur during the implementation of the project. The contractor will obtain an encroachment permit from the County Roads and Airports Department and provide flagmen to control access by the public during hauling operations.

Analysis of Potential Impacts. Describe to what extent project activities would:

a. Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections).

The project is not expected to cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system.

b. Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the country congestion management agency for designated roads or highway.

The project is not expected to exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the country congestion management agency for designated roads or highway.

c. Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment).

All proposed routes are designated routes for use by cars and trucks similar to those proposed by this project. Further, proposed routes are generally flat and void of any substantial curves or intersections that would increase the safety potential along those routes from project trucks.

d. Result in inadequate emergency access.

Access to the site is readily available to emergency vehicles.

e. Result in inadequate parking capacity.

The project will not result in the need for additional parking spaces. Existing parking is adequate to handle the small volume of vehicles utilized by on-site workers and agency personnel.

f. Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks).

The use of trucks does not support the concept of alternative transportation more typical of commute traffic scenarios.

Specific References:

a) Initial Environmental Study for Almaden Quicksilver County Park, prepared by DTSC, April 11, 1994.

b) Final Remedial Action Plan, Almaden Quicksilver County Park, prepared by Camp Dresser & McKee, December 6, 1994.

Findings of Significance:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

16. Utilities and Service Systems

Project activities likely to create an impact: NONE. The proposed project will not require new utilities or have significant energy or fuel demands. Fuel consumption would be limited to that used by construction equipment used to implement the project. Consequently, no further analysis of impacts to this resource category is deemed necessary.

Description of Environmental Setting:

Analysis of Potential Impacts. Describe to what extent project activities would:

a. Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board.

b. Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects.

c. Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects.

d. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed.

e. Result in determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the projects projected demand in addition to the providers existing commitments.

f. Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the projects solid waste disposal needs.

g. Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

Specific References:

a) Initial Environmental Study for Almaden Quicksilver County Park, prepared by DTSC, April 11, 1994.

b) Final Remedial Action Plan, Almaden Quicksilver County Park, prepared by Camp Dresser & McKee, December 6, 1994.

Findings of Significance:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

17. Mandatory Findings of Significance

Analysis of Potential Impacts. Describe to what extent project activities would: NONE. The purpose of the proposed project is to remove the last significant calcine piles in the Hacienda Furnace Yard and Jacques Gulch areas. The proposed remedial activities are intended to 1) prevent human contact with waste materials having concentrations of mercury that was determined to be a significant risk, and 2) prevent mercury-containing sediments from further entering into local aquatic systems. Overall, the project is expected to provide further improvement in environmental quality. Consequently, no further analysis of impacts to this resource category is deemed necessary.

a. Have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.

b. Have impacts that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable. "Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of an individual project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.

c. Have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

Specific References:

a) Initial Environmental Study for Almaden Quicksilver County Park, prepared by DTSC, April 11, 1994.

b) Final Remedial Action Plan, Almaden Quicksilver County Park, prepared by Camp Dresser & McKee, December 6, 1994.

Findings of Significance:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

V. FINDING OF DE MINIMIS IMPACT TO FISH, WILDLIFE AND HABITAT ***(Optional)***

Prepared only if a Finding of De Minimis Impact to fish, wildlife and habitat is proposed in lieu of payment of the Department of Fish and Game Notice of Determination filing fee required pursuant to section 711.4 of the Fish and Game Code.

Instructions

A finding of "no potential adverse effect" must be made to satisfy the requirements for the Finding of De Minimis Impact as required by title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 753.5. "No potential adverse effect" is a higher standard than

"no significant impact" and the information requested to provide substantial evidence in support of a "no potential adverse effect" is not identical in either its standard or content to that in other parts of the Initial Study.

In the *Explanation and Supporting Evidence* section below, provide substantial evidence as to how the project will have **no potential adverse effect** on the following resources:

a) Riparian land, rivers, streams, watercourse, and wetlands under state and federal jurisdiction.

b) Native and non-native plant life and the soil required to sustain habitat for fish and wildlife.

c) Rare and unique plant life and ecological community's dependent on plant life.

d) Listed threatened and endangered plant and animals and the habitat in which they are believed to reside.

e) All species of plant or animals as listed as protected or identified for special management in the Fish and Game Code, the Public Resources Code, the Water Code, or regulation adopted there under.

f) All marine and terrestrial species subject to the jurisdiction of the Department of Fish and Game and the ecological communities in which they reside.

g) All air and water resources the degradation of which will individually or cumulatively result in a loss of biological diversity among the plants and animals residing in that air and water.

VI. DETERMINATION OF APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT

On the basis of this Initial Study:

☒ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment. A NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find that the proposed project MAY HAVE a significant effect on the environment. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT will be prepared.

DTSC Project Manager Signature		Date
Edgardo Gillera	Hazardous Substances Scientist	(510) 540-3826
DTSC Project Manager Name	DTSC Project Manager Title	Phone #
DTSC Branch/Unit Chief Signature		Date
Barbara J. Cook, P.E.	Northern California - Coastal Cleanup Operations	(510) 540-3843
DTSC Branch/Unit Chief Name	DTSC Branch/Unit Chief Title	Phone #

ATTACHMENT A

INITIAL STUDY REFERENCE LIST

For

Almaden Quicksilver County Park
(Project Name)

1) Initial Environmental Study for Almaden Quicksilver County Park, prepared by DTSC, April 11, 1994.

2) Final Remedial Action Plan, Almaden Quicksilver County Park, prepared by Camp Dresser & McKee, December 6, 1994.

3) California Geological Survey, Seismic Hazard Mapping Program, http://gmw.consrv.ca.gov/shmp.

4) ESRI/FEMA U.S. Flood Hazard Area Map for Santa Clara County.

5) Almaden Quicksilver Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment (Public Review Draft), prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, and California Department of Fish and Game – Office of Spill Prevention and Response, January 14, 2005.

NEGATIVE DECLARATION TRACKING FORM

Project Title: Almaden Quicksilver County Park

Project Location (*Include County*):

Almaden Quicksilver County Park, Almaden Road
San Jose, Santa Clara, CA 95101

PCA Code: 11025 Site Code: 200028 WP: 00 MPC:

Lead Staff Person: Edgardo Gillera Phone # (510) 540-3826

Unit or Section: Northern California Coastal Cleanup Operations Branch Unit Chief: Barbara J. Cook, P.E. Phone: (510) 540-3843

DTSC Office Location Name: Berkeley Regional Office FAX: (510) 540-3819

Step #1 Project Manager prepares the Negative Declaration; attaches the transmittal memorandum for internal review, initials and dates; the Branch Chief signs off and submits the completed package to the Chief of the Office of Environmental Analysis and Regulations (OEAR).

04/22/06
Project Manager Signature Date
Edgardo Gillera
Name of Person Signing

Branch Chief/Designee Signature Date
Barbara J. Cook, P.E.
Name of Person Signing

Step #2 Negative Declaration is date stamped, logged and assigned to OEAR staff. OEAR will review and evaluate within fifteen (15) working days of the date received. A written response will be provided if changes are needed. OEAR Chief signs the tracking form with a copy of the NOE and attachments.

Chief, OEAR/Designee Signature Date

Name of Person Signing

Step #3 OEAR files the Negative Declaration to the Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse.

Date Mailed to OPR

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Submitting: ☒ **Draft**
☐ **Final**
☐ **Mitigated Negative Declaration**

Project Title: Almaden Quicksilver County Park

State Clearinghouse Number: _____

Contact Person: Edgardo Gillera Phone # (510) 540-3826

Project Location (*Include County*):

Almaden Quicksilver County Park, Almaden Road
San Jose, Santa Clara County, CA 95101

Project Description:

The project consists of excavation and consolidation of remaining calcine material from the Hacienda Furnace Yard and Jacques Gulch areas of Almaden Quicksilver County Park. The total mass of material to be removed and consolidated is estimated to be approximately 25,000 to 30,000 cubic yards. This material will be consolidated and capped in the Mine Hill area of the Park pursuant to the existing Remedial Action Plan (RAP) approved by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) in December 1994.

Findings of Significant Effect on Environment:

After conducting an Initial Study of the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project, DTSC has determined that implementation of the project will not result in any significant environmental impacts. See attached Initial Study.

Mitigation Measures:

DTSC has determined that no additional mitigation measures would be required beyond those incorporated as part of the project.

DTSC Branch Chief Signature		Date
Barbara J. Cook, P.E.	Chief, Northern California - Coastal Cleanup Operations	(510) 540-3843
DTSC Branch Chief Name	DTSC Branch Chief Title	Phone #